

Western Avenue Reconstruction Advisory Committee meeting #1



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Environmental &
Transportation Planning

1

Welcome

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

2

Team

Department of Public Works

Owen O'Riorden, James Wilcox, Wendy Robinson, Kelly Dunn

Community Development Department

Susanne Rasmussen, Bill Deignan, Jeff Rosenblum

Traffic, Parking, & Transportation

Sue Clippinger, Jeff Parenti

Consultants

John Struzziery (SEA), Jerry Friedman (HDR),
Cynthia Smith (Halvorson), Chris Hart (IHCD)

3

Agenda

- Introductions
- Advisory Committee process
- Overview of City policies
- Scope and schedule for the project
- *Group input session: positives and negatives about Western Ave.*
- Public comment period
- Wrap-up, next steps

4

Advisory Committee

Lawrence Adkins	Erin Gullage
Bill August	Megan Krey
Mertin Betts	Marc Leuchner
Velmer Brooks	Bob Nesson
Kathy Cannon	Brad Nissenbaum
Abdullah Daoud	Eran Segev
Reuben Dottin	Anne Shuhler
Caitlin Gallagher	Artis Spears
David Gibbs	Pastor Lawrence Ward
Marvin Gilmore	

5

Advisory Committee process

- Committee selection process
- Role of the committee
- Consensus approach
- Meeting schedule

6

Other outreach activities

- Presentations to Neighborhood Assoc.
- Workshop at Camb. Community Center
- Youth Center outreach programs
- Central Square Business Association
- Community-wide public meetings
- Informal walks of Western Ave.
- Website: <http://westernavenue.info>

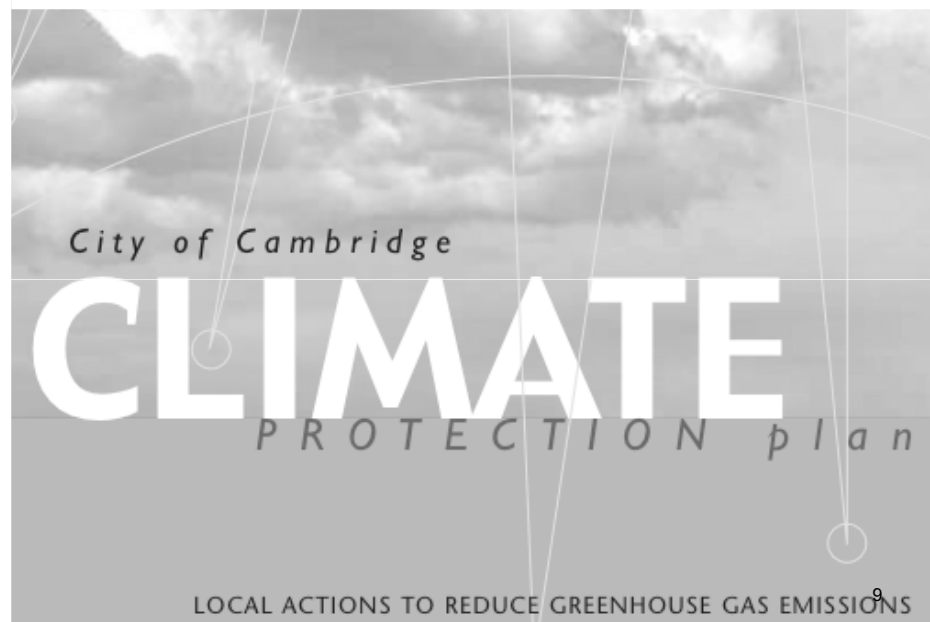
7

Western Avenue is a...

- Regional roadway *and*
- Neighborhood street *and*
- Retail district *and*
- Front yard.

8

GHG emissions: reduction by 20% by 2010



Growth Policy Document (1993, 2007)

Policy #22

- Undertake reasonable measures to improve the functioning of the city's street network, without increasing through capacity, to reduce congestion and noise and facilitate bus and other non-automobile circulation.

10

Growth Policy Document (1993, 2007)

Policy #23

- Encourage all reasonable forms of nonautomotive travel including, for example, making improvements to the city's infrastructure to support bicycling and walking.

11

Massachusetts Avenue, 1996



12

Cambridgeport Roadways



Brookline Street



Lafayette Square, 2008



AFTER



Surface design: Preliminary project goals

- Ensure corridor is safe for all users
- Maintain adequate traffic flow
- Reinforce residential character
- Appropriate traffic speed
- Improve conditions for walking, bicycling, and transit riders
- Provide disability access
- Improve access to businesses
- Help meet stormwater environmental goals through “low impact designs”

Questions

Susanne Rasmussen, Director

Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

17

Schedule & Scope

Jeff Rosenblum, Transportation Planner

Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

18

Project schedule

2010

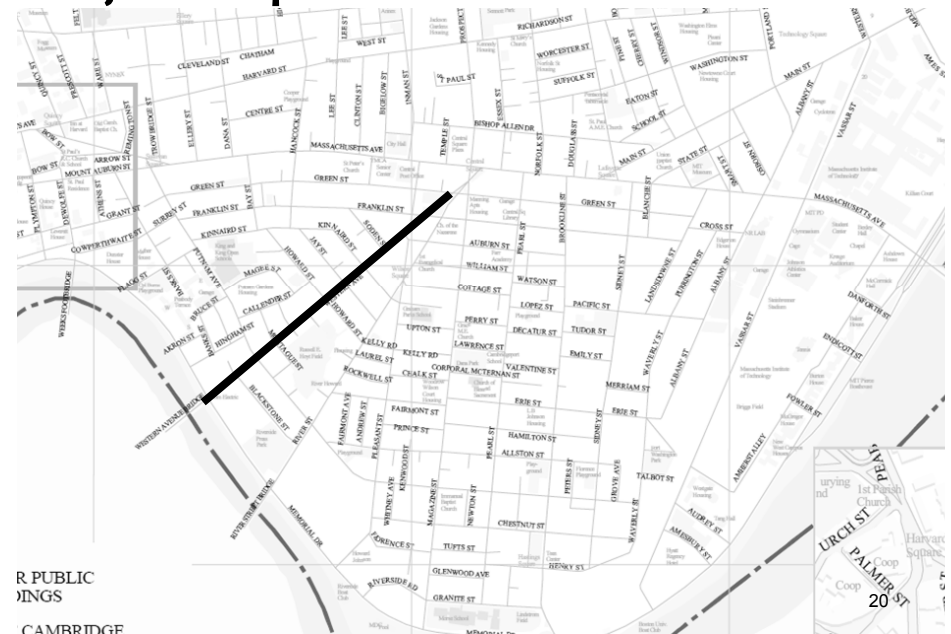
February Begin community process
June Complete conceptual design
July 25% design complete
November 75% design complete

2011

April Project is advertized
July Construction begins

19

Project scope



Scope of the project

Subsurface

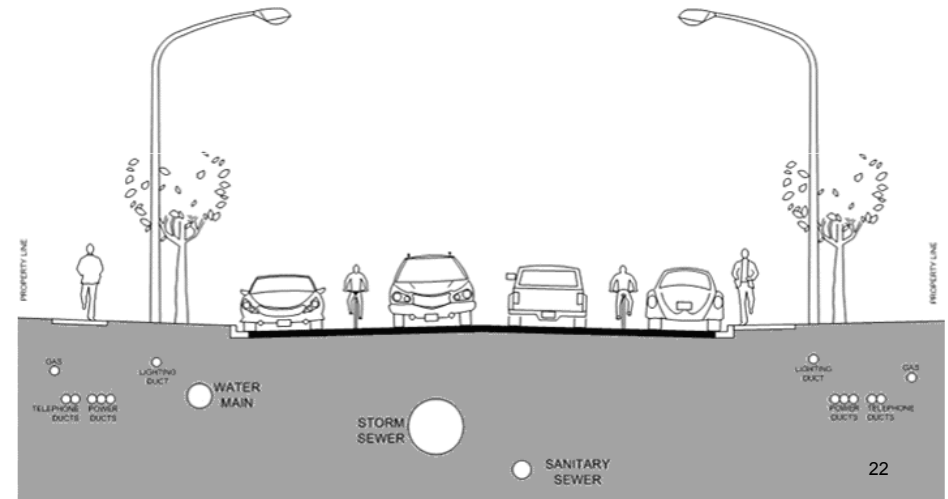
- City: sewer, water, electrical for street lighting
- Companies: gas, electric, telephone, cable as needed

Surface

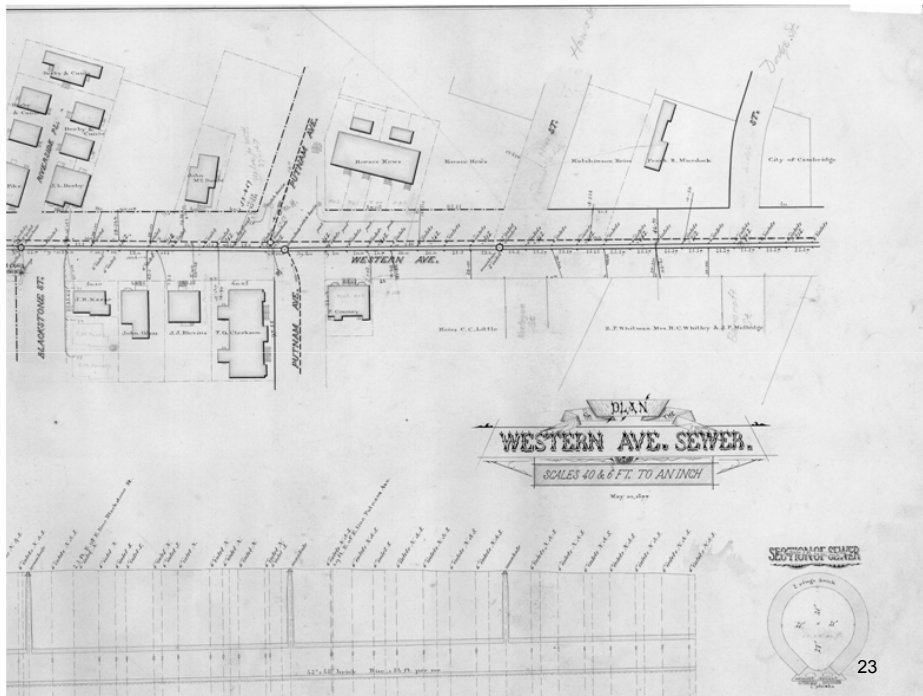
- City: roadway, sidewalks, street furniture, trees, lighting
- Available funding for surface restoration depends on final cost of doing subsurface

21

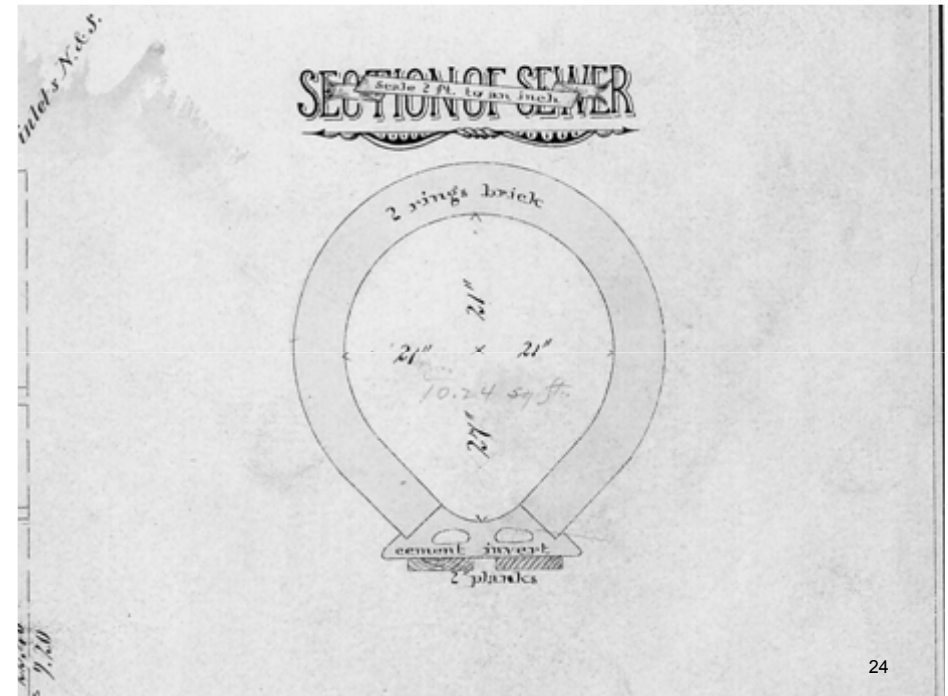
Subsurface and surface



22



23



24

Preliminary survey and inspections



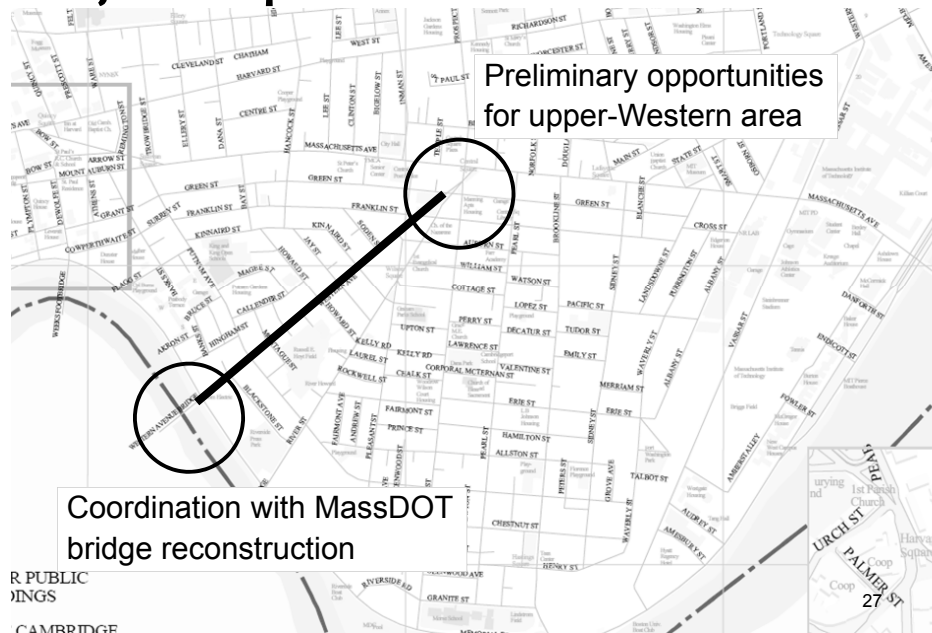
25

Surface restoration

- Overall design of roadway and sidewalk
 - Traffic volumes
 - Parking
 - Intersections and pedestrian crossings
 - Bicycle accommodation
 - Lighting
 - Surface material
 - Plantings
 - Open-space
 - Green design elements

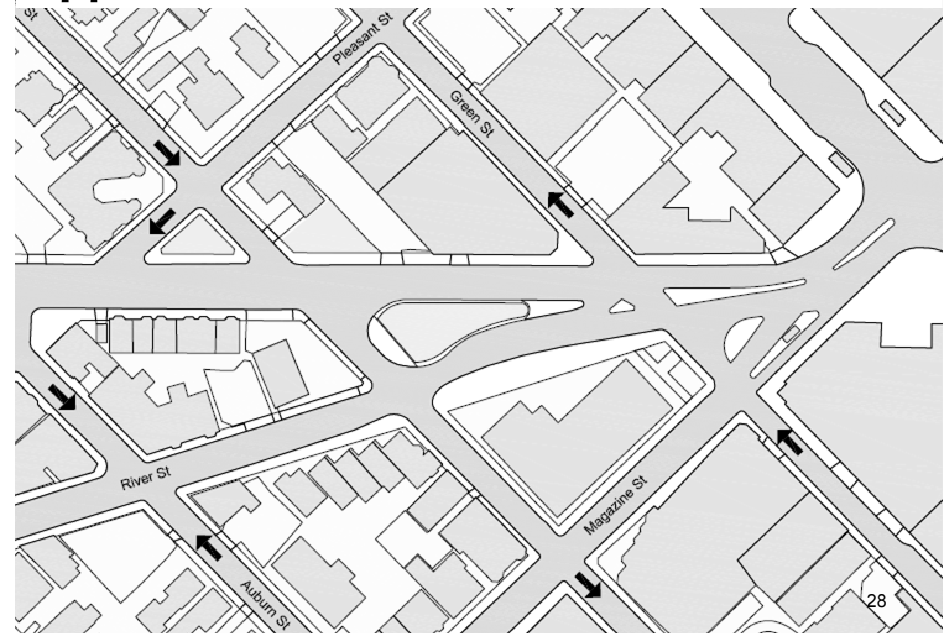
26

Project scope



27

Upper Western Avenue



28

Working Session

What do you like about Western Avenue?
What don't you like?

29

Next Steps

- Upcoming Schedule
- Review materials in your binder
- Website: <http://westernavenue.info>

30

Next meetings

Advisory Committee Meetings:

- Meeting #2: Tuesday March 16
- Meeting #3: Thursday April 15
- Meeting #4: Tuesday April 27

Community-wide Meeting

- Wednesday March 31 (7-9 pm)

All meetings held at the Citywide Senior Center

31

Advisory Committee meeting #2

Tentative Agenda (Tue. March 16)

- Discussion of community goals
- Sewer project presentation
- Presentation/ slide show by Charlie Sullivan, Historical Commission
- Presentation and discussion of Existing Conditions Study
- Participatory session from the committee on possible conceptual design directions

32